

March- 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Shri Vinay Kumar (IFS: 1992), currently Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. He will succeed incumbent Manpreet Vohra.

TAMIL NADU

State Food Commission - TAMILNADU

- ❖ The State government has constituted a six-member Tamil Nadu State Food Commission with IAS officer R.Vasuki as its Chairperson
- ❖ It has been constituted more than a year after it decided to implement the **National Food Security Act (NFSA)**.
- ❖ As per Section 16 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, every State should constitute a State Food Commission for the purpose of monitoring and reviewing implementation of this Act.
- ❖ According to the NFS Act, 2013, the Commission shall
 - Monitor and evaluate the implementation of this Act in relation to the State,
 - Inquire into complaints of violations of entitlements,
 - Give advice to the State government for the effective implementation of food and nutrition related schemes.
- ❖ The Commission is empowered to either Suo moto or on receipt of complaint, inquire into violations of entitlements and can give advice to the government, and has all the powers of a civil court.
- ❖ About 50.55% of the State's population or around 3.6 crore, out of the total 7.2 crore consumers, are eligible for entitlements under the NFSA.

NATIONAL

World's largest solar park

- ❖ **Shakti Sthala**, hailed as the world's largest solar park by Karnataka govt. was inaugurated by CM Siddaramaiah in Pavagada taluk of **Karnataka's Tumkur district**.
- ❖ The first phase of the park has 600 MW while another 1,400 MW will be added by December 2018.
- ❖ Once fully operational, the park will have the capacity to produce 2,000 MW of electricity — 453 MW more than the current world's largest solar park in China, the Tengger Desert Solar Park.
- ❖ One of the unique features of the plant is, the land for the park was **leased from the local community for 25 years**, instead of the common practice of acquisition.
- ❖ The park's development was initiated with the creation of the Karnataka Solar Power Development Corp. Ltd (KSPDCL) in March 2015 as a joint venture between Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Ltd (KREDL) and Solar Energy Corp. of India (SECI).
- ❖ This solar project is part of the “Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021”
- ❖ Karnataka has emerged as the **third-largest producer** of renewable energy in the country.



ECONOMY

National Financial Reporting Authority

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for establishment of National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
- ❖ The decision aims at establishment of NFRA as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which is one of the key changes brought in by the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The inclusion of the provision in the Act was on the specific recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance.
- ❖ It aims to tighten regulatory oversight over auditors and plug loopholes.
- ❖ NFRA will be 15 members body, consisting of Chairperson, three full-time Members and one Secretary.
- ❖ The jurisdiction of NFRA
 - For investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms would extend to listed companies and large unlisted public companies.
 - Govt. can also refer other entities for investigation where public interest is involved
- ❖ It will function as an overarching watchdog for auditing profession and even powers of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to act against erring chartered accountants will be vested with NFRA.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Integrated app for all government services

- ❖ The Telangana govt. has launched an m-Governance mobile application called 'T App Folio' the official digital application of the state.
- ❖ It will help citizens with one-point access to government services like Mee Seva services, RTA services, fee payments and bill payment services etc.
- ❖ **Telangana has become the second state government in India after Karnataka** to set up a mobile service delivery gateway in place for the provision of government to citizen (G2C) services.

- ❖ T App Folio has integrated T Wallet, my GHMC, RTA and Hawk Eye through a Single Sign-On feature using which users of T App Folio can access mobile apps using their T App Folio credentials.
- ❖ The platform is being launched in Telugu and English for the convenience of citizens
- ❖ Telangana state has been ranked number 1 in digital transactions based on the number of e-transactions per 1,000 population for the period of June 2, 2014 to December 31, 2017 by the government of India's e-Taal website.

STATES

Health-cum-life insurance scheme for farmers

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Telangana, K Chandrasekhar Rao has announced a health-cum-life insurance scheme worth 5 lakh Rupee for the farmers in the state at the regional conference of Farmers' Coordination Committees in Karimnagar
- ❖ The Farmers' Coordination Committees would have to ensure that each and every farmer in the village gets the benefits of the scheme.
- ❖ The entire premium of the health-cum-life insurance scheme of farmers will be fully borne by the government and the coverage will be made available in case of hospitalisation.

SPORTS

Asian Wrestling Championships

- ❖ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat won a silver medal at the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ Phogat lost to Chinese wrestler Chun Lei in the women's 50kg freestyle final.
- ❖ This is Phogat's second consecutive silver at the annual event, following her podium finish at the tournament in New Delhi in 2017.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Zero Discrimination Day - March 01

- ❖ The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) is observed every year on March 1 to promote equality before the law and in practice throughout all of the member countries of the UN.
- ❖ The day urges people to join together against discrimination and celebrate everyone's right to live a full and productive life with dignity.
- ❖ The symbol for Zero Discrimination is the butterfly, widely recognized as a sign of transformation.
- ❖ The UN first celebrated Zero Discrimination Day on 1 March 2014. It was observed after UNAIDS launched its Zero Discrimination Campaign on World AIDS Day in December 2013.


